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APR 4 2003

To: Examiner: Johannsen, D. GROUP 1600

From: Jason Garbel

Date: April 4, 2003

OFFICIAL

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Attorney Docket No.: 5600.200-US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sandal et al

Confirmation No: 1759

Serial No.: 09/426,340

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: October 25, 1999

Examiner: Johannsen, D.

For: Method For Generating A Gene Library

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

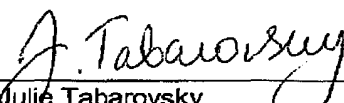
I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

1. Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
2. Amendment
3. Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132

was sent to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by telefax to the attention of Examiner Johannsen, D., fax number (703)872-9306.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2003

  
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19, 21-25 and 27 are pending. Claims 1 and 21 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a gene library from an environmental pool of organisms isolated from soil, animal dung, insect dung, insect gut, animal stomach, sea or lake water, waste water, sludge, or sediment, which gene library is enriched in DNA encoding a polypeptide with an activity of interest, which method comprises:

a) subjecting the environmental pool of organisms to cultivation under conditions wherein the pool of organisms is enriched in organisms harbouring said DNA, [wherein said enriched pool of organisms is prepared without screening the organisms for presence of the activity of interest] thereby forming an enriched environmental pool of organisms, and

b) preparing a gene library from the enriched environmental pool of organisms, [wherein said enriched pool of organisms is prepared without screening the organisms for presence of the activity of interest], wherein between step a) and step b) there is no step of isolating organisms having the activity of interest from the enriched environmental pool of organisms.